ATLAS MENACE

SEPT.

MENACE

10¢

NO. 7

ANOTHER MENACE MASTERPIECE:
"FRESH OUT OF FLESH!"

AUTHORIZED A.C.M.I.

CONFORMS to the COMICS CODE

TALES OF MADDENING MENACE!

"THE WITCH IN THE WOODS!"

"THE PLANET OF LIVING DEATH!"

HERE LIES JOHNNY JOHN

ON SALE MONTHLY

You Can WIN
This 15" tall SILVER TROPHY JUST AS I DID IN 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY!

I GAINED 53 LBS. OF SHAPELY POWER-PACKED MUSCLES!

Which of these **2 ME'S is YOU?**
THAT 112 LB.-6 FT. SPINDLE-ARMED **SISSY** below WAS ME A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GET, FOR ALL 5 PICTURE-PACKED COURSES MILLIONS HAVE BEEN SOLD FOR $1 AND MORE

What I enrolled I was a skinny, sick weakling. As you can see in my "Before" Photo I looked like a child... years younger than my age. I was ashamed to take a picture in bathing trunks as I do now. I was shy with girls because I had nothing to show off. A few weeks after starting the Jowett Course my body was the best in the neighborhood. Now I get respect and admiration from every fellow and girl I meet.

Roger Hirsch NEW YORK NOW

There's that skinny scarecrow ROGER. Let's pass him by!

Roger Hirsch before

ROGER HIRSCH was a 112 lb. 6 ft. WEAKLING. Look at him NOW— A MOVIE-STAR HE-MAN from Head to Toe as **YOU** can be soon!

NO! friend you don't have to be **SKINNY** any more just mail **NOW** the **FREE** coupon below as I did. Soon **YOU** can add **6½** inches to your **CHEST** **3** inches to each **ARM** and the rest in proportion just as I did.

How to Build MIGHTY ARMS
How to Build A MIGHTY CHEST
How to Build A MIGHTY BACK
How to Build MIGHTY LEGS
How to Build A MIGHTY GRIP

FREE PHOTO BOOK HOW to Achieve Nerves of Steel, Muscles of Iron

How to BECOME A MIGHTY HE-MAN

Come on, PAL, NOW YOU GIVE ME PLEASANT MINUTES A **10** DAY IN YOUR HOME... AND I'LL GIVE **YOU a NEW HE-MAN BODY** For Your **OLD SKELETON FRAME.**
says *George F. Jowett* World's Greatest Builder of HE-MEN

GEORGE F. JOWETT "Champion of Champions" 4 times Winner Perfect Man Contest

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are; if you're a teen-ager, in your 20's or 30's or over; if you're short or tall, or what work you do. All I want is JUST 10 EXCITING MINUTES in your home to MAKE YOU OVER by the SAME METHOD I turned myself from a wreck to a Champion of Champions.

BOTH *FREE* FOR QUICK ACTION!
1. Photo Book of STRONG MEN
2. MUSCLE METER

Dept. M A- 39

"Jowett Courses greatest in World for Building All-Around HE-MEN" —F. F. Kelley Director Physical

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING
220 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

Dear George: Please mail to me FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men and a Muscle Meter, plus all 5 HE-MAN Building Courses: 1. How to Build a Mighty Chest. 2. How to Build a Mighty Arm. 3. How to Build a Mighty Grip. 4. How to Build a Mighty Back. 5. How to Build Mighty Legs—Now all in One Volume "How to become a Mighty HE-MAN." ENCLOSED FIND 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING (no C.O.D.'s).

NAME_____ AGE_____
ADDRESS_____
CITY_____ ZONE_____ STATE_____

YES! You'll see INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to YOUR ARMS. Your CHEST deepened. Your BACK AND SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels, you'll gain SOLIDITY, SIZE, POWER, SPEED! You'll become an ALL-Around, ALL-American HE-MAN, A WINNER in everything you tackle—or my Training won't cost you one solitary cent.

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES Gain Pounds, INCHES, FAST!

Friend, I've traveled the world. Made a LIFETIME STUDY of every way known to develop your body. Then I devised the BEST by TEST, my "5-WAY PROGRESSIVE POWER" the only method that builds you 5-ways fast. You save YEARS, DOLLARS like movie star Tom Tyler did. Like champ Roger Hirsch did. Like MANY THOUSANDS like you did. SO MAIL coupon NOW!

MAIL COUPON IN TIME FOR FREE OFFER!

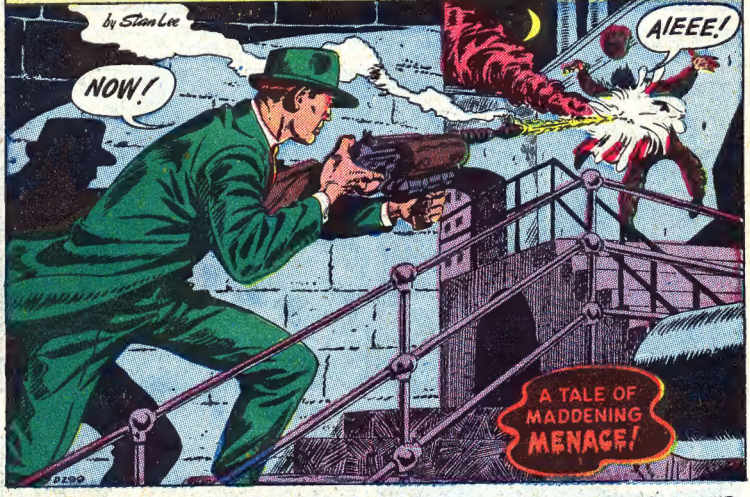
MENACE is published MONTHLY by HERCULES PUBLISHING CORP. Office of Publication: 270 Park Avenue, New York, New York. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at BRIDGEPORT, CONN. Copyright 1953 by HERCULES PUBLISHING CORP., 270 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. Vol. 1, No. 7, September, 1953 issue. Price 10c per copy. Subscription rate $1.45 for 12 issues including postage. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Monroe Froehlich, Jr., Business Manager.

Printed in the U.S.A.

DIDJA EVER READ A STORY IN WHICH SOMEONE IS SO SCARED THAT HIS HAIR STANDS ON END? WELL, HERE'S ONE THAT GOES EVEN FURTHER... IT DEALS WITH SOME CUDDLY CHARACTERS WHOSE FLESH MELTS RIGHT OFF THEIR BODIES! WHY? BECAUSE ...

FRESH OUT OF FLESH!

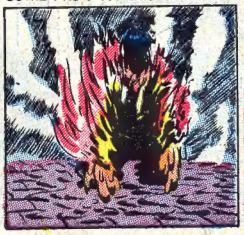
YOU RAISE THE FIRE-GUN TO YOUR SHOULDER, GLENN TOWERS... YOU SIGHT ALONG ITS GLISTENING, DEADLY BARREL UNTIL THERE'S NO CHANCE FOR YOU TO MISS... AND THEN SLOWLY... STEADILY... YOU SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER...



MENACE #1

IT TAKES LESS THAN A SECOND FOR THE WHITE-HOT FLAME TO START MELTING THE PLASTIC FLESH...

THE SCREAMS OF HORROR YOU HEAR DON'T BOTHER YOU IN THE LEAST! YOU KNOW THEY DON'T COME FROM A *HUMAN* THROAT.



AFTER ALL, A FIRE-GUN IS THE ONLY THING ON EARTH THAT CAN INFALLIBLY KILL ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MENACES TO MANKIND... THE "MARK IV ROBOT"!

AS YOU STAND OVER THE REMAINS OF THE MARK IV ROBOT, YOU MAKE AN ENTRY IN YOUR LITTLE BLACK NOTEBOOK...

THAT DISPOSES OF NUMBER 14,999... NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT!

YOU WALK AWAY INTO THE SHADOWS, YOUR MEMORY HAUNTING YOU WITH THE DAYS OF THE FIRST ROBOTS... THE MARK I'S...

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS WASTED! IF ONLY THE MARK I'S HAD SUCCEEDED!

YOU REMEMBER THINGS YOU LEARNED IN SCHOOL ABOUT THE MARK I'S... HOW PRIMITIVE THEY WERE... AND HOW UNUTTERABLY UGLY...

I TELL YOU THIS ROBOT WILL DO THE WORK OF TWENTY HUMANS!

NOT INTERESTED, PROFESSOR MARK! I COULDN'T BEAR LOOKING AT IT EVEN IF IT COULD REPLACE ALL MY EMPLOYEES!

PROFESSOR DOREMUS MARK REALIZED HE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE HIS ROBOTS MORE ATTRACTIVE IF HE HOPED TO SELL ANY... SO HE CREATED THE MARK II ...

BETTER... MUCH BETTER! I'LL BUY 5 OF THEM!

THAT WILL BE 50,000 DOLLARS!

BUT PROFESSOR MARK STILL WASN'T SATISFIED! HE CONTINUED TO WORK AND SLAVE IN HIS LABORATORY...

I'LL GET IT YET... I'M CLOSE... SO CLOSE!

UNTIL HE DEVELOPED THE MARK III... A ROBOT THAT COULD THINK FOR ITSELF...

WHY DON'T YOU FIND ME A JOB, PROFESSOR?

AT LAST!

BUT HE REALIZED HE STILL HADN'T REACHED HIS GOAL...

YOU WANT ME TO BUY A THINKING ROBOT? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? WORKERS WOULDN'T STAND FOR IT! TOO MUCH COMPETITION! THEY'LL GO ON STRIKE!

OH... I SEE...

THE TROUBLE WITH MY ROBOTS IS THAT THEY LOOK LIKE ROBOTS! IF ONLY I COULD BUILD THEM IN THE SHAPE OF HUMAN BEINGS...
AND SO THE PROFESSOR WENT TO WORK ON HIS FINAL PROJECT... THE MARK IV, "THINKING" ROBOT... IN HUMAN FORM...
THERE! I DEFY ANYONE TO NOTICE THAT YOU AREN'T A GENUINE HUMAN BEING!
SOON THE PROFESSOR'S FACTORY WAS TURNING OUT MARK IV'S BY THE HUNDREDS..
AND THEY WERE INSTANT SELLOUTS, BECAUSE...
I'LL BUY AS MANY AS I CAN! NONE OF MY EMPLOYEES WILL SUSPECT THEIR JOBS ARE BEING TAKEN OVER BY ROBOTS!
BARRR
UNTIL THAT FATEFUL DAY WHEN THE FIFTEEN THOUSANDTH ROBOT WAS COMPLETED...
HERE'S A TOAST TO YOU, NAMELESS! YOU'RE MY FIFTHTEEN THOUSANDTH MARK IV ROBOT!
AND I WILL BE YOUR LAST ROBOT!
W--WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF YOU KEEP ON MANUFACTURING US, WE'LL BECOME TOO COMMON, TOO WORTHLESS! BUT IF YOU WERE TO DIE TODAY, THERE'D BE ONLY 15,000 OF US... AND WE'D BE WORTH OUR WEIGHT IN GOLD!
ARRHH!
NOW THERE WILL BE NO MORE OF US!

AND SO THE MARK IV ROBOTS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE NATION... IN HIDING...WORKING IN OFFICES, IN FACTORIES... BUT ALWAYS WAITING...WAITING...

WAITING FOR A COMMAND FOR A GENERAL MEETING WHICH THEY WERE TO ATTEND IN SECRET...

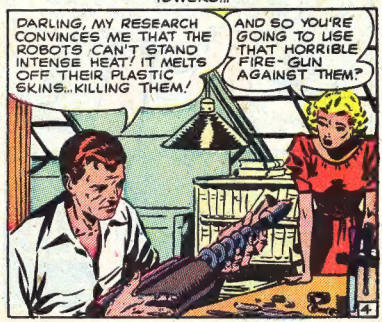
AND FINALLY.. THE COMMAND CAME...

IN VARIOUS GUARDED MEETING PLACES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE MARK IV'S ASSEMBLED AND DECIDED...

SOUND SILLY? IT WASN'T REALLY! AFTER ALL, THE ROBOTS WERE SMARTER THAN HUMANS... THEIR PLASTIC SKINS WERE BULLETPROOF.. THEY DIDN'T EVER HAVE TO EAT OR SLEEP.. AND THEY WERE AS STRONG AS TEN MEN...

IT DIDN'T TAKE THEM LONG TO INFILTRATE INTO ATOMIC PLANTS... GOVERNMENT OFFICES...AND MILITARY OUTPOSTS! BEFORE THE WORLD HAD ANY WARNING, IT WAS FACED WITH A WAR FOR SURVIVAL, WITH AN INVISIBLE ENEMY...

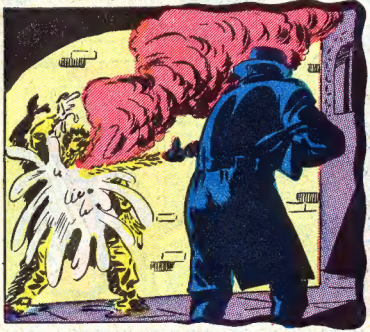
AND IT WAS A WAR WHICH 15,000 ROBOTS MIGHT HAVE WON AGAINST 2 BILLION PEOPLE, EXCEPT FOR YOUR TWO INVENTIONS, GLENN TOWERS...


DARLING, MY RESEARCH CONVINCES ME THAT THE ROBOTS CAN'T STAND INTENSE HEAT! IT MELTS OFF THEIR PLASTIC SKINS...KILLING THEM!
AND SO YOU'RE GOING TO USE THAT HORRIBLE FIRE-GUN AGAINST THEM?

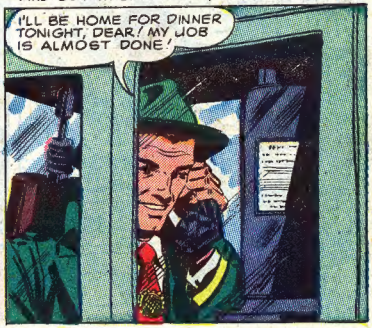
YES..AND THE SECOND PART OF MY PLAN IS THIS ELECTRONIC TIE PIN! IT BUZZES WHENEVER IT FACES A ROBOT! AFTER I MANUFACTURE ENOUGH TIE PINS, THERE WON'T BE A PLACE ON EARTH SMALL ENOUGH FOR A ROBOT TO HIDE IN!

ARMED WITH THE GLENN TOWERS ELECTRONIC ROBOT DETECTOR AND THE DEADLY FIRE-GUNS, THOUSANDS OF SPECIALLY-TRAINED MEN WERE SENT OUT INTO THE FIELD TO HUNT DOWN AND DESTROY THE REMAINING MARK IV'S...

IT ONLY TOOK A FEW SHORT WEEKS TO FERRET OUT ALMOST **ALL** OF THEM... AND TO DESTROY THEM...



GLENN TOWERS HIMSELF KILLED THE 14,999TH ROBOT... NOW IT WAS UP TO MANKIND TO FIND OUT WHERE THE 15,000TH WAS...



AND SO AT DINNER TIME AT THE TOWERS' ESTATE...

IT'S A PLEASURE TO GET THIS PIN OFF AND JUST RELAX!
YOU'RE TIRED DEAR! I'M GLAD YOU DON'T WEAR THAT PIN AROUND THE HOUSE! THE BATTERIES MUST WEIGH A TON!

YOU PUT YOUR PIN ON THE DRESSER...

AND SETTLE DOWN FOR A GOOD MEAL...

BUT THE RADIO INTRUDES UPON YOUR PEACE OF MIND ALL TOO SOON...
FLASH! IT IS LEARNED THAT THE FINAL REMAINING ROBOT IS HIDING IN THE VICINITY OF CLAY AND MARKET STREETS!
CLAY AND MARKET! THAT'S RIGHT HERE!
I'LL SHUT IT OFF.. I DON'T WANT YOU DISTURBED WHILE YOU'RE EATING!
IT'S TOO LATE!
I'VE GOT TO TRACK DOWN THAT FINAL ROBOT!
BUT AS YOU PUT YOUR TIE PIN ON, YOU HEAR A SOFT BUZZING SOUND...
THE SIGNAL!
YOU SPIN AROUND, REACHING FOR YOUR FIRE-GUN... BUT THERE'S NOBODY THERE EXCEPT YOUR WIFE...
WHO...? OH, IT'S YOU, DEAR!
YES...WHAT'S WRONG, GLENN?
YOUR BRAIN IS SPINNING IN TURMOIL! THE BUZZER SAYS YOUR OWN WIFE IS THE FINAL ROBOT... WELL, WHY NOT? NO REASON WHY PROFESSOR MARK COULDN'T HAVE MADE FEMALE ROBOTS, TOO...
N--NOTHING'S WRONG! EVERYTHING'S OKAY, NORMA!
AFTER ALL... YOU'VE ONLY BEEN MARRIED A FEW MONTHS...AND YOU KNOW ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT HER PAST! YOUR HAND SLOWLY REACHES FOR THE FIRE-GUN...
YOU'RE PALE, DARLING! ARE YOU SICK? SHOULD I CALL A DOCTOR?
NO, DEAR... I'M OKAY... IT'LL PASS... IT MUST BE SOMETHING I ATE!
6

YOUR TREMBLING FINGERS DROP THE GUN! YOU CAN'T DO IT TO YOUR OWN WIFE...NOT THAT WAY! THEN YOU GET ANOTHER IDEA...

IT DOESN'T MATTER *HOW* THEY BURN... AS LONG AS THEY BURN! I'LL MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT... AND NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW!

YOU WAIT TILL YOU'RE ALONE! THEN YOU LIGHT A MATCH TO THE DRAPES! IN SPLIT SECONDS THE ENTIRE WOODEN HOUSE IS ABLAZE...

DARLING, THE HOUSE IS ON FIRE! LET'S RUN... QUICKLY... WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT!

WAIT... STAY WITH ME FOR A SECOND!

YOU HOLD HER IN A GRIP OF STEEL WAITING TO SEE HER FEATURES MELT AS THE FIRE GETS HOTTER AND HOTTER...

THE HEAT IS GETTING UNBEARABLE! HURRY, GLENN... HAVE YOU GONE MAD?

NO! I'VE JUST COME TO MY SENSES!

BUT THEN YOUR GRIP WEAKENS.. SHE BREAKS AWAY... AND YOU REMEMBER THAT THE ROBOTS HAVE THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN...

NORMA! COME BACK!

I WON'T STAY AND BE BURNED ALIVE!

BUT DID SHE *HAVE* TO BE STRONG TO ESCAPE YOU? YOUR HANDS ARE TOO WEAK AND MUSHY TO HOLD ANYTHING NOW...

AND YOUR FEET ARE TOO LUMPY TO CARRY YOU TO SAFETY... FOR HEAT MAKES A MARK IV ROBOT MELT INCREDIBLY FAST...

PROFESSOR MARK WAS A CLEVER MAN... NOT ONLY COULDN'T *HUMAN BEINGS* RECOGNIZE HIS ROBOTS, BUT SOME OF THE *ROBOTS* DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE WHAT THEY WERE...

YOU WERE ONE OF THE ROBOTS, GLENN TOWERS.. BUT NOT FOR LONG... NOT FOR LONG!

THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

THE DREAM CASTLE

HIS name was Henri Drago. He was a young American writer who had achieved a certain amount of success during his short career. But now Henri was in the middle of a new novel . . . it was half-finished, and Henri could go no further. He was suffering from mental fatigue, and the words just would not come anymore from his overtired brain. Could it have been this state of extreme tension that brought about that certain dream . . . that nightmare that kept recurring night after night for nearly two weeks now?

In this weird dream, Henri always found himself standing a short distance away from an old European castle. He would walk up the winding road leading to the ancient structure. He would always enter and find the place inhabited by ghosts, hobgoblins and a varied assortment of demon creatures. They always chased Henri up a long staircase. He would come to a large door on an upper floor of the castle. This door was closed and on it was written in wavy letters: "You Are At Death's Door!"

And although the ghosts and other demon creatures were pursuing him in this fantastic nightmare, Henri could never gather up enough courage to open this door, even though shelter and safety may have been waiting for him on the other side. And yet, if he just stood there before the door, the demons might catch him and do all sorts of horrible things to him. But Henri always awoke from his nightmare experience before having to make his decision about opening that foreboding door and passing through it. But in each successive dream, the demons always managed to get a little closer to him, before he awoke. Henri feared that soon, if he should have the same dream for a few more nights, these creatures of horror would finally catch up to him *before* he awakens, and he shuddered to think what they might do to him.

So Henri decided to consult a psychiatrist. He rested on the couch in the doctor's private office and revealed every phase of this strange, recurring dream. The doctor could offer no explanation other than that Henri was working too hard on his writing, and that he was in need of a complete rest and change. Henri had always planned a trip to Europe, so he made the necessary arrangements, and several weeks after his visit to the psychiatrist, Henri was in northern Italy.

Henri had chosen this region, because his ancestors had lived here centuries before he himself had been born in America. Arriving in Fano, he deposited his luggage in a hotel and then took a walk around the small city. The next afternoon, he told himself, he would hire a car and tour the surrounding countryside. So, the next day, Henri was at the wheel of a hired vehicle and drove out into the farm district outside of Fano. He waved to farmers working in their fields, and Henri was happy when they waved back.

But after a while, as he drove along, Henri noticed that he was no longer passing any farmhouses. The fields were covered with weeds and it was evident that no one had tilled the soil here for many years. And then a storm burst over the area almost without warning. Not being familiar with the roads, Henri decided he would stop somewhere for shelter. But there were no houses in sight.

Suddenly, Henri received the shock of his life! During a particularly bright flash of lightning, he spotted an old castle up on a hill not very far away. And Henri suddenly realized that *this* was the very *same* castle he had seen in his nightmarish dreams! Henri left the car and walked up the winding road toward the castle, just as he now remembered doing in his dreams! Arriving at the structure, he banged on the door, but no one answered. Then he noticed that the door hung from rusted hinges and was not locked. He opened the door slowly, cautiously, and entered the old castle.

The interior was exactly as he recalled it in his nightmares! There were plenty of cobwebs and some old, crumbling chairs and a table. But otherwise it was deserted. Henri could feel the cold seeping into his bones and he decided to make a fire in the huge fireplace. He broke up some of the chairs and tossed the wood into the fireplace. With his lighter he was finally able to coax a small blaze out of the dry wood. Soon the room began to warm up and Henri was feeling dry and cozy.

He lay prone on the floor before the fire, his hands resting beneath his head. He looked up at the ceiling and thought back over the past few months. He remembered the first night he had had that terrible dream . . . how the demons had pursued

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY

FAT FOLKS! *Your Dream Has Come True!*

How to Lose UGLY FAT Without Dieting – Hunger!

- NO DIET
- NO EXERCISE
- NO "METHODS"
- NO "PLANS"
- NO DRUGS

DOCTORS approve and recommend MELTABS because it contains no drugs. The formula is the discovery of a group of doctors associated with one of New York's leading hospitals.

If you are a normal, healthy, overweight man or woman by all means read about this amazing, new, clinically tested medical discovery that is already creating a sensation all over the country.

Forget all about diets, hunger, calorie counting, massage, drugs, exercise and all other unpleasant, annecessary things usually associated with reducing.

For a great medical discovery now makes it possible for you to lose pounds of excess fat safely — *without dieting, without having a single hungry moment!*

Doctors Discover Meltabs

Most doctors agree that the best way to lose excess fat is to eat less — to go on a restricted diet. A group of New York doctors, making a special study of obesity, realized however, that while dieting was desirable it wasn't as easy or as simple as it sounds for most overweight people.

Men: Why not try MELTABS, the natural way to take off excess weight that's neither good for you nor good to look at

Meltabs has been clinically tested by doctors connected with one of New York's largest hospitals.

Hunger — The Fat Person's Enemy!

Dieting for most folks means hunger. And few people can resist hunger. So they appease it by eating between meals, by going off their diets. And back come the unwanted pounds and inches.

So these New York doctors worked for years searching for a formula that would lick hunger and make people lose fat safely, *without dieting*. They finally announced success in a food adjunct called MELTABS.

Clinical Tests Proved Their Discovery

The doctors clinically tested MELTABS on a large group of non-glandular overweight men and women.

The group undergoing the tests were instructed by the doctors to chew or suck a tasty MELTABS before each meal, but not to go on any special diet, not to cut out any special foods — just sit down at the table and eat until satisfied.

Results Amazing

Every member of the group lost 8 to 20 pounds in a short period of time; in fact satisfactory weight losses were noticed the very first week. And not a single person said she had a hungry moment.

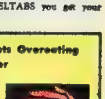
Meltabs as Harmless as Water

A food adjunct — not a drug

During the tests the doctors carefully checked the physical condition of each member of the group, took electro-cardiograms, and did not find a single case of ill effect. Everyone said she never felt better. So at last, the fat person's dream has come true — a way to lose excess fat without dieting, without hunger, without giving up the foods she likes.

Start slimming down your figure Get MELTABS today. $3 for a month's supply. GUARANTEE: If you aren't pleased with the weight you lose after using one bottle of MELTABS you get your money back.

How Meltabs Prevents Overeating — Hunger



According to scientific calculations, one Meltabs wafer has the hunger satisfying capacity of 1 lb boiled potatoes, or 3 slices white bread, or 4 eggs — yet it contains only 3 calories.

MAIL COUPON NOW!

ROBIN PRODUCTS CO., Dept. MCB
26 East 46th St., New York 17, N. Y.

Send me 30 Day Supply of MELTABS. I enclose $3.00 for postpaid delivery. ☐

Send C. O. D. — I will pay postman $3.00 plus postal charges. ☐

NAME _____

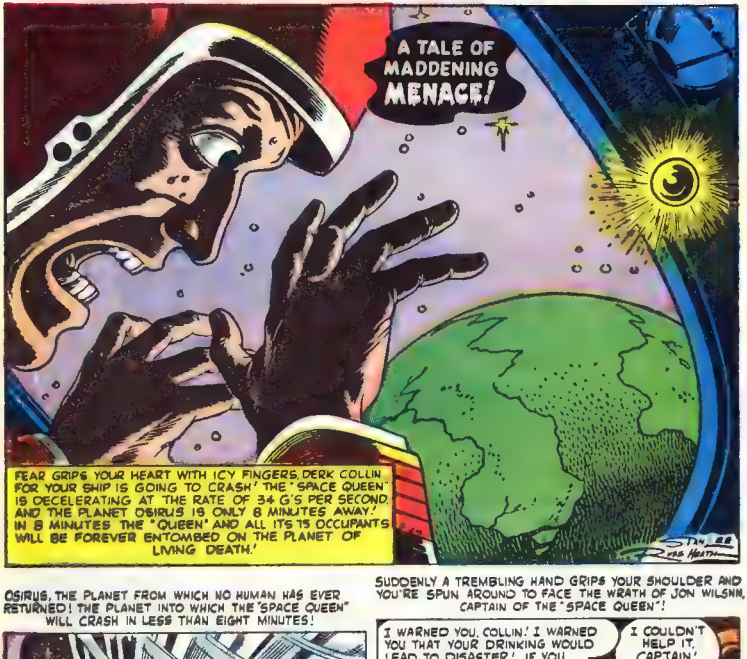
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

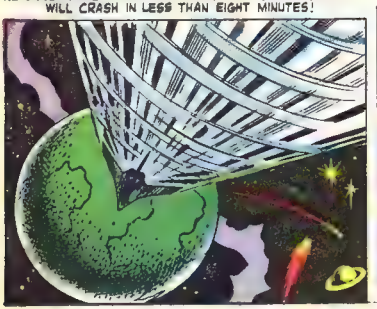
Your money back if you don't LOSE WEIGHT

MAYBE YOU GUESSED THE ENDING OF "FRESH OUT OF FLESH"...BUT YOU WON'T GUESS **THIS** ONE! I **WROTE** IT...AND EVEN I HADN'T FIGURED OUT THE ENDING TILL THE LAST PANEL! READ IT...YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN!

THE PLANET OF LIVING DEATH


A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!
FEAR GRIPS YOUR HEART WITH ICY FINGERS, DERK COLLIN FOR YOUR SHIP IS GOING TO CRASH! THE "SPACE QUEEN" IS DECELERATING AT THE RATE OF 34 G'S PER SECOND AND THE PLANET OSIRUS IS ONLY 8 MINUTES AWAY! IN 8 MINUTES THE "QUEEN" AND ALL ITS 15 OCCUPANTS WILL BE FOREVER ENTOMBED ON THE PLANET OF LIVING DEATH!
STAN LEE
RUSS HEATH

OSIRUS, THE PLANET FROM WHICH NO HUMAN HAS EVER RETURNED! THE PLANET INTO WHICH THE "SPACE QUEEN" WILL CRASH IN LESS THAN EIGHT MINUTES!



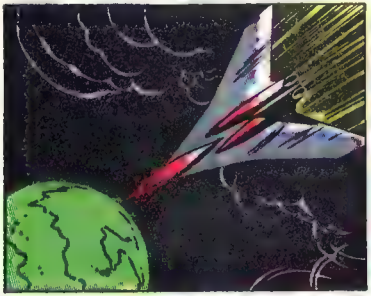
SUDDENLY A TREMBLING HAND GRIPS YOUR SHOULDER AND YOU'RE SPUN AROUND TO FACE THE WRATH OF JON WILSNN, CAPTAIN OF THE "SPACE QUEEN"!

I WARNED YOU, COLLIN! I WARNED YOU THAT YOUR DRINKING WOULD LEAD TO DISASTER! IF YOU HADN'T BEEN DRUNK ON DUTY YOU'D HAVE NOTICED THE FAILURE OF THE AUXILIARY RUDDER CONTROL!
I COULDN'T HELP IT, CAPTAIN! I SWEAR IT!
1

LOOK AT YOU! YOU CALL YOURSELF A FIRST MATE!?! YOU'RE TREMBLING LIKE A BABY! WHY AREN'T YOU ON THE BRIDGE WHERE YOU BELONG?
I...I NEEDED A DRINK... THAT'S ALL... JUST ONE DRINK! A MAN'S GOT A RIGHT TO THAT BEFORE A CRASH!

IF WE LIVE THRU THIS CRASH, I'LL BREAK YOU SO THAT YOU CAN'T GET A JOB ON ANY ROCKET IN THE GALAXY! I'LL MAKE YOUR NAME THE MOST DESPISED WORD IN THE ROCKET FLEET!

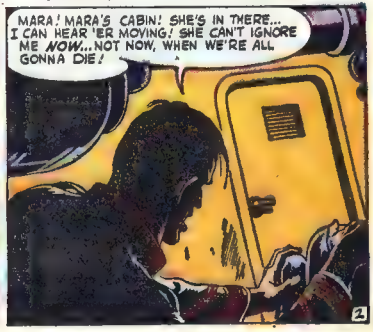
YOU GREEDILY BRING THE BOTTLE TO YOUR LIPS... SWALLOWING THE FLAMING FLUID IN HUNGRY GULPS, AS THE "SPACE QUEEN" PLUMMETS CRAZILY CLOSER TO OSIRUS...ONLY SIX MINUTES AWAY FROM THE PLANET OF LIVING DEATH...



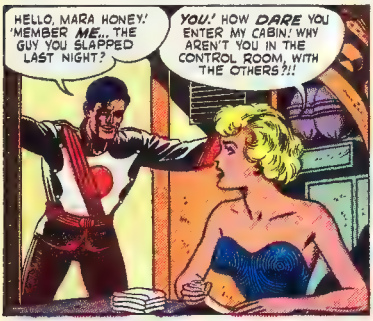
AND THEN YOU STAGGER OUT OF YOUR CABIN AND INTO THE COMPANIONWAY...YOU SEE THE CREWMEN DESPERATELY WORKING THE BROKEN CONTROLS... THE FOOLS! THEY DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO GIVE UP WHEN THEY HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE...

GET OUT OF THE WAY, YOU DRUNKEN, SLOBBERING COWARD! YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO YOUR UNIFORM!
IGNORE HIM, TOMM!! HELP ME WITH THIS RHEOSTAT!

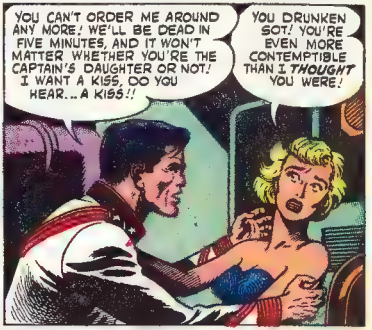
YOU PICK YOURSELF UP GROGGILY... THRU THE ALCOHOL HAZE YOU SEE A DOOR...*HER* DOOR! IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE...YOU MIGHT AS WELL TAKE IT...



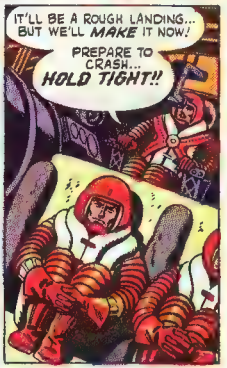
YOU PUSH OPEN THE DOOR, AND SEE HER...SHE'S ROLLING BANDAGES FOR THE EMERGENCY! EVEN WITH HER HAIR MUSSED AND HER FACE ASHEN WHITE, SHE LOOKS BEAUTIFUL TO YOU...


HELLO, MARA HONEY! 'MEMBER ME... THE GUY YOU SLAPPED LAST NIGHT?
YOU! HOW DARE YOU ENTER MY CABIN! WHY AREN'T YOU IN THE CONTROL ROOM, WITH THE OTHERS?!!

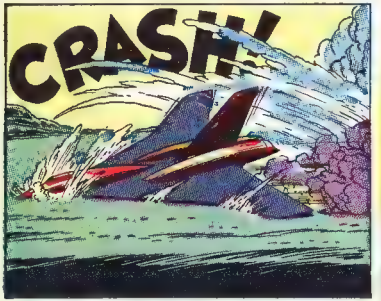
YOU LUNGE FORWARD, UNSTEADILY...REACHING FOR MARA ...REACHING FOR THAT PROUD, HAUGHTY CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER WHO HAS HAUNTED YOUR EVERY DREAM...


YOU CAN'T ORDER ME AROUND ANY MORE! WE'LL BE DEAD IN FIVE MINUTES, AND IT WON'T MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER OR NOT! I WANT A KISS, DO YOU HEAR...A KISS!!
YOU DRUNKEN SOT! YOU'RE EVEN MORE CONTEMPTIBLE THAN I THOUGHT YOU WERE!

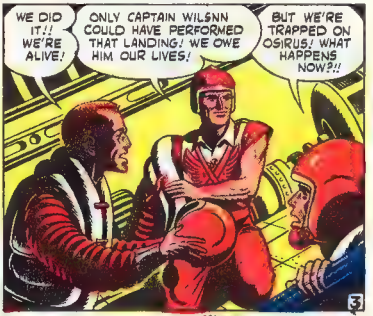
BUT JUST AS MARA IS ALMOST WITHIN YOUR GRASP, YOU HEAR THREE WORDS SHOUTED OVER THE AMPI-SPEAKER! THREE WORDS THAT ELECTRIFY EVERY HUMAN ON THE SHIP...



LIKE A GREAT, GREY GHOST, THE MAJESTIC SHIP RIGHTS ITSELF AS ITS EMERGENCY HYDRO-VALVES PRODUCE ENOUGH PRESSURE TO LESSEN THE FORCE OF THE LANDING! THEN, WITH AN EAR-SPLITTING ROAR... CONTACT IS MADE WITH OSIRUSIAN SOIL...



IT'S LONG SECONDS BEFORE ANYONE DARES MOVE! BUT FINALLY LIFE STIRS INTO ACTIVITY AS THE PASSENGERS AND CREW REALIZE THE LANDING HAS BEEN MADE... AND ALL HANDS ARE SAFE...


WE DID IT!! WE'RE ALIVE!
ONLY CAPTAIN WILSNN COULD HAVE PERFORMED THAT LANDING! WE OWE HIM OUR LIVES!
BUT WE'RE TRAPPED ON OSIRUS! WHAT HAPPENS NOW?!!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

"THIS IS HOW MANY NOTCHES I WAS ABLE TO TAKE IN *AFTER PUTTING ON THE* COMMANDER"*

Men, here's the quick, easy way to a trim, streamlined appearance. Do away with bulging, paunchy, flabby, overgrown waistline look . . . without the annoyance of strenuous exercise *or* dieting.

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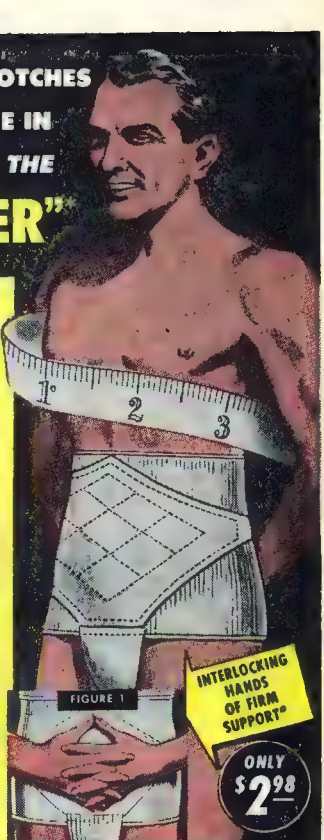
The "COMMANDER" gently compresses your abdomen to make you look better . . . feel younger. When you wear the Commander your stomach is flattened, but the "COMMANDER" is so comfortable you'll hardly know you're wearing it! That's because "COMMANDER" doesn't contain a single strap, buckle or lace . . . and no rib-sticking steel braces to cause you discomfort. Once you put on the "COMMANDER" you'll notice a quickness to your step, a sparkle in your eyes

YOU *FEEL* NEW!

TEST THE "COMMANDER" YOURSELF—NOW!

Clasp your hands over abdomen, as in Fig. 1 (at right) and press up and in. This is the trademarked, interlocking hands principle of the "COMMANDER". Feel good? NOW—note the results, as in Fig. 2 (at top). You'll take in notches on your belt . . . you'll feel slimmer . . . look better . . . back is held together . . . the moment you put on this amazing "COMMANDER" Belt. But why wait another day. We guarantee results or no cost!



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☐ Also send _____ extra crotch pieces. (75¢ each, 3 for $2.)

IN THE EXCITEMENT YOU'VE BEEN ALL BUT FORGOTTEN! YOU STAGGER OUT OF THE WRECKAGE AND LOSE YOURSELF IN THE SHADOWS...

I DISOBEYED ORDERS...I WAS DRUNK ON DUTY...IF THEY EVER GET BACK TO EARTH, IT'S THE PUNISHMENT PITS FOR ME!

BUT THEN A NEW EVENT HAPPENS...ONE WHICH WILL CHANGE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE...

LOOK! SOMEONE IS COMING!

IT MUST BE THE OSIRUSIANS! LOAD YOUR WEAPONS!

WHAT CHANCE HAVE WE GOT? A HANDFUL AGAINST A PLANET?

IN THE GATHERING TWILIGHT, YOU SEE YOUR FIRST OSIRUSIANS! MORE HORRIBLE BY FAR THAN YOU EVER DREAMED THEY COULD BE! THE MOST DEADLY LIVING CREATURES IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE...

PUT DOWN YOUR CHILDISH RAY GUNS! THEY CANNOT HARM US!

HE SPEAKS ENGLISH!

BUT I DON'T ACTUALLY HEAR HIS VOICE!

I AM COMMUNICATING WITH YOU TELEPATHICALLY... I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU...

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER... STAY BACK... STAY BACK...

I WARNED YA!

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE THAT!

THE ONLY ONES THAT KILL ON OSIRUS, ARE THE OSIRUSIANS!

DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?

FROM YOUR POSITION IN THE SHADOWS, YOU'VE WATCHED THE DRAMATIC SCENE UNFOLD! NEVER HAVE YOU SEEN MORE REPULSIVE, HORRIFYING-LOOKING CREATURES! THE MERE SIGHT OF THEM IS ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU SICK... BUT YOU WATCH IN DREAD FASCINATION... UNABLE TO TURN AWAY...
WE COULD KILL YOU ALL IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, AS WE'VE KILLED THE OTHER HUMANS WHO LANDED ON OSIRUS IN THE PAST! BUT I HAVE AN OFFER TO MAKE YOU!
OOOOO
THE ONE THING WHICH PREVENTS US FROM DEVELOPING ROCKETS IS THAT WE HAVEN'T THE SECRET OF ATOMIC ENERGY! IF WE HAD THAT SECRET, WE COULD CONQUER THE UNIVERSE!
SAVE YOUR BREATH! YOU WON'T GET IT FROM US!
IF ONE OF YOU WILL EXPLAIN THE WORKING OF ATOMIC ENERGY TO US, WE'LL REPAIR YOUR SPACE SHIP AND LET YOU ALL GO FREE!
AND IF WE DON'T?
YOU WILL ALL DIE... MOST HORRIBLY, I PROMISE YOU!
AS YOU BEAR SILENT WITNESS TO THE TENSE SCENE IN FRONT OF YOU, AN IDEA ENTERS YOUR MIND...
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE! IF I RETURN TO EARTH WITH THE 'SPACE QUEEN' I'LL BE TRIED AND TORTURED! IF I STAY HERE, I'LL BE KILLED BY THESE CREEPS! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO... GIVE 'EM THE INFO! THEY'D FIND IT OUT IN TIME, ANYWAY!
YOU'LL NEVER GET ANY INFORMATION FROM US... NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO!
THAT'S RIGHT, SKIPPER! WE'RE ALL WITH YA!
OH, DAD... I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!
WAIT! I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANNA KNOW... ON ONE CONDITION!
NAME YOUR TERMS... WE'LL MEET THEM!

YOU GIVE YOUR MESSAGE TO THE WORMLIKE CREATURE ...AND HE TELEPATHICALLY RECEIVES IT AND ANSWERS YOU...
IF YOU PUT ME AND THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER IN THE "SPACE QUEEN'S" LIFE RAFT, AND LET US HEAD FOR SATURN, I'LL TELL YA WHAT YA WANNA KNOW!
WHY THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER?
BECAUSE SHE'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IN THE GALAXY... AND I WANT HER!
IT SHALL BE DONE! WRITE THE ATOMIC FORMULAE HERE!
WHILE YOU'RE TURNING TRAITOR TO THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE, THE OSIRUSIANS REPAIR THE "SPACE QUEEN"...
AND THE ROCKET TAKES OFF FOR EARTH, TO WARN ABOUT YOUR BETRAYAL, AS YOU HAND OVER THE FORMULAE!
HERE IT IS... ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW!
I CAN TELL BY PROBING YOUR MIND THAT IT IS ALL COMPLETE!
AND WE HAVE KEPT OUR PART OF THE BARGAIN... IN THAT LIFE RAFT IS THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER ...WAITING TO GO TO SATURN WITH YOU!
AT LAST! SHE CAN'T AFFORD TO HATE ME NOW... I'M THE ONLY HUMAN SHE'LL EVER SEE!
YOU ENTER THE LIFE RAFT, EAGERLY AWAITING THE SIGHT OF THE LOVELY MARA... BUT AS YOU LOOK INSIDE, A SCREAM OF HORROR ESCAPES YOU!
ARGHH!
YOU... YOU SWORE YOU'D HAVE THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER FOR ME!!
SO WE DID!
BUT WHEN YOU CALLED HER THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IN THE GALAXY, WE KNEW YOU MUST MEAN OUR CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER!
DON'T SHUDDER SO, HUMAN! WE'LL BE HAPPY TOGETHER, YOU AND I!
THE END

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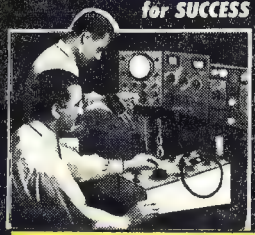

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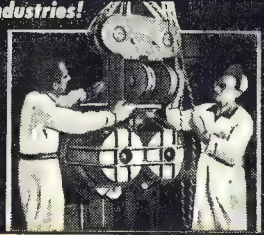

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...CONTINUED

him and came closer each time the dream returned on other nights. This trip was supposed to relax his mind and obliterate all traces of that recurring nightmare. And yet, here he was in reality, in that very castle he had dreamed about. Who could give a logical explanation for all this? Of course there were no ghosts or demons to torment and pursue him. So maybe this chance encounter in the old castle where he was being sheltered from the storm would relieve his mind once and for all, and he would never be bothered again by the horror creatures. Henri smiled and dozed off.

It was a short time later when Henri awoke with a start. The fire had burned low and a chill returned to the room. As he opened his eyes, he heard the sounds . . . eerie moans and cries. And then he saw them! Ghosts, demons, hobgoblins flying all over the place! Just like in his dream! Surely he was dreaming again, Henri thought. But then something happened that had never happened before during any of those former nightmares back home. One of the ghosts stood before Henri and spoke!

"Henri Drago, we've been waiting for you a long time! This is the castle where, a very long time ago, the mad Count Luis Drago, your ancestor, invited his enemies to a banquet and then killed them all! We are the restless spirits of the madman's victims! We cannot go to our eternal repose until the *last* of the Drago line has perished! *You*, Henri Drago, are the last remaining member of the Drago family!"

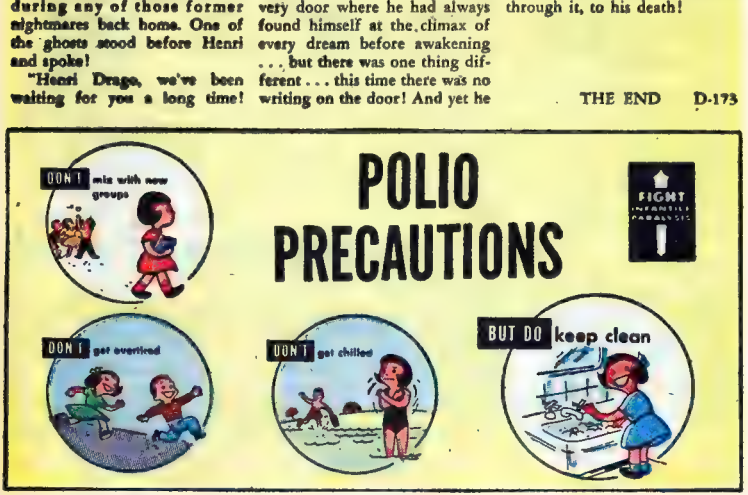
Could this be why Henri had been having those weird, recurring dreams, he wondered? Had these spirits tried to influence him from afar to make him come to this rendezvous with them? The spirits began to draw closer to Henri. He was terrified, but even in his terror he remembered that this threat too had happened just in this manner, in his dreams! So he must do what he had always done in his dreams . . . he ran from the spirits and demons and made a dash for the long staircase going upstairs. And the ghosts pursued him, just as Henri knew they would!

Suddenly, he came to that very door where he had always found himself at the climax of every dream before awakening . . . but there was one thing different . . . this time there was no writing on the door! And yet he could see the inscription of his dreams: "You Are At Death's Door!"

But now, being closely pursued by the ghosts, Henri decided he *must* see what was on the other side of that door! He lunged and pushed it open, only to find himself hurtling downward through space! This door had opened out to a completely destroyed portion of the old castle! Screaming, Henri fell hundreds of feet to the rocks below and his life was crushed out! And the ghosts and demons followed the body in its downward flight, howling and laughing in their glee. And then, suddenly, they vanished into thin air! They would never have to haunt the old castle anymore, since their vengeance against the Drago family line had been fulfilled.

We shall never know what supernatural power had granted Henri Drago the prophetic dream vision of how he was to die. And, as in his dreams, he had indeed found himself "at death's door", only to plunge through it, to his death!

THE END D-173



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EVEN IF you think "you lack musical talent" . . .

EVEN IF all these things are true of you, we guarantee to show you how to play! So *quickly* your friends will be amazed. So *pleasantly* you'll really look forward to each new lesson. So *inexpensively* you'll never miss the few cents per lesson it costs!

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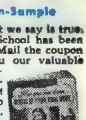

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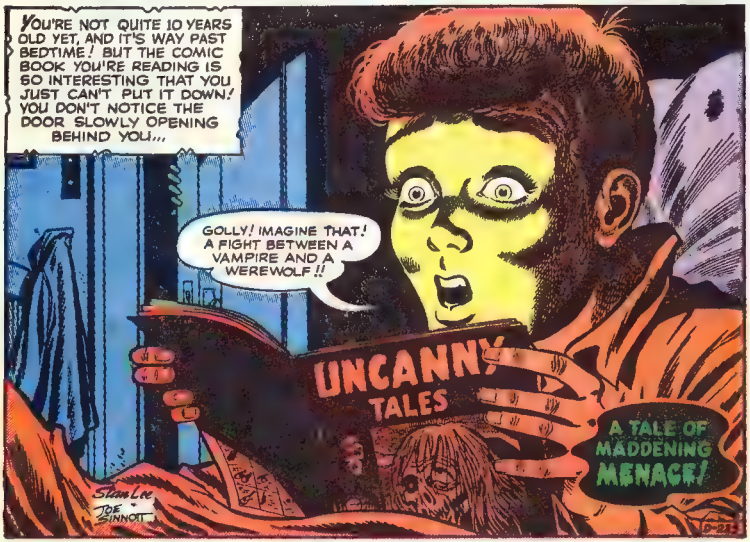
THE WITCH IN THE WOODS


YOU'RE NOT QUITE 10 YEARS OLD YET, AND IT'S WAY PAST BEDTIME! BUT THE COMIC BOOK YOU'RE READING IS SO INTERESTING THAT YOU JUST CAN'T PUT IT DOWN! YOU DON'T NOTICE THE DOOR SLOWLY OPENING BEHIND YOU...
GOLLY! IMAGINE THAT! A FIGHT BETWEEN A VAMPIRE AND A WEREWOLF!!
UNCANNY TALES
A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!
Stan Lee
JOE SINNOTT

YOU DROP YOUR MAGAZINE IN ALARM AS THE SOFT, MELLOW VOICE OF YOUR FATHER GENTLY DRIFTS ACROSS THE ROOM...

YOUR FATHER SUBTLY INDICATES HIS OPINION OF COMIC MAGAZINES BY THE MANNER IN WHICH HE REMOVES IT FROM YOU...

I **TOLD** YOU NEVER TO READ THESE CRUMMY WEIRD COMICS ANY MORE! ARE YOU TRYIN' TO SCARE YOURSELF SILLY?!!
AW GEE, DAD... NOW I'LL **NEVER** KNOW WHETHER A VAMPIRE CAN KILL A WEREWOLF!

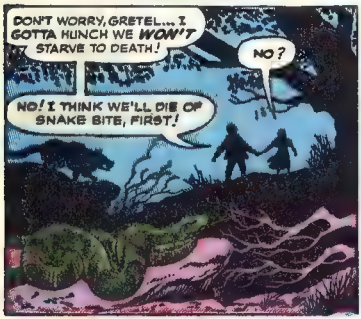
VAMPIRES! WEREWOLVES! CHILDREN DIDN'T USE LANGUAGE LIKE THAT IN MY DAY! WE READ GOOD BOOKS!
REALLY? WHAT DIDYA READ, DAD?
FAIRY TALES! HERE... I'LL SHOW YOU...
FAIRY TALES BY GRIMM
AH, YES... HERE'S AN OLD FAVORITE OF MINE... HANSEL AND GRETEL!
HANSEL AND GRETEL? I HEARD OF THAT!
SIT BACK AND SHUT YOUR EYES, AND I'LL READ IT TO YOU! IT'LL DO YOU SOME GOOD, AFTER ALL THOSE SCARY COMICS YOU'VE BEEN READING!
OKAY, DAD... LET'S HEAR IT!
ARMY
"ONCE UPON A TIME THERE LIVED A BROTHER AND A SISTER NAMED HANSEL AND GRETEL... THEIR FATHER WAS VERY POOR AND THEIR STEPMOTHER WAS VERY SELFISH...
LOOK! WE HAVE ONLY ONE-HALF A LOAF OF BREAD LEFT TO EAT! THERE ISN'T ENOUGH FOR THOSE TWO BRATS!
BUT IF WE DON'T FEED HANSEL AND GRETEL, THEY'LL STARVE TO DEATH IN FRONT OF OUR EYES!
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THEM TO STARVE TO DEATH IN FRONT OF OUR EYES... TAKE THEM OUT TO THE WOODS, AND LEAVE 'EM THERE TO STARVE!
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA... THEN WE WON'T HAVE TO WATCH 'EM STARVE!
"AND SO, THE NEXT NIGHT, THEIR FATHER TOOK THE TWO CHILDREN DEEP INTO THE HEART OF THE DARK, LONELY, MYSTERIOUS FOREST!"
COME ALONG, CHILDREN... WE'LL GO FOR A NATURE WALK!
AT MIDNIGHT?

"WHEN THEY REACHED THE DEEPEST, DARKEST, LONELIEST PART OF THE WOODS, THEIR FATHER SAID... "

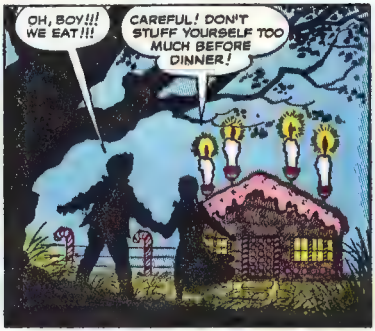
"AFTER WAITING FOR 3 WEEKS, HANSEL FINALLY SAID TO GRETEL..."

"GRETEL DIDN'T ANSWER... SHE WAS TOO WEAK... FROM STARVATION..."

"AND SO THE LITTLE CHILDREN WANDERED THRU THE DISMAL FOREST, THRU THE MUD, THE MIRE, THE MUCK... WITH WOLVES, WILDCATS, AND WATER SNAKES ALL AROUND THEM!"



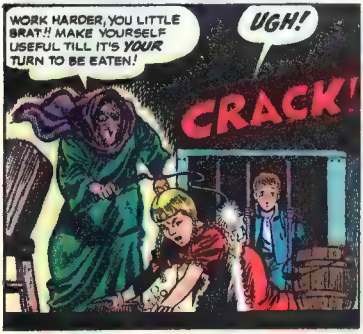
"BUT SUDDENLY THEY SAW A SWEET, CHARMING LITTLE GINGERBREAD HOUSE ... MADE OF CANDY AND CHOCOLATE AND BUBBLEGUM!"



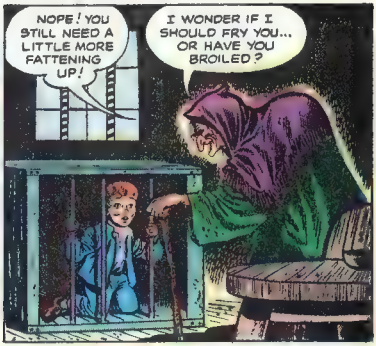
"BUT INSIDE WAS AN UGLY, LOATHSOME, HORRIBLE, MAN-EATING OLD WITCH!"

"AFTER HANSEL AND GRETEL HAD EATEN SO MUCH THAT THEY COULDN'T MOVE... THE OLD WITCH DRAGGED THEM INTO THE HOUSE..."

"THE OLD WITCH PUT HANSEL IN A CAGE, AND PUT GRETEL TO WORK, COOKING AND SCRUBBING, TILL HANSEL WAS FAT ENOUGH TO EAT..."



"AND EVERY DAY THE WITCH WOULD LOOK INTO HANSEL'S CAGE TO SEE IF HE WAS FAT ENOUGH TO EAT..."



"ONCE, WHEN THE WITCH WASN'T LOOKING, GRETEL TRIED TO ESCAPE..."

"BUT THE WITCH WAS TOO CLEVER! NOBODY COULD ESCAPE FROM HER!"

"FINALLY, THE BIG DAY CAME... THE OLD WITCH LOOKED AT HANSEL..."

AND LIT HER OVEN...

"AND POOR HANSEL SHRIEKED FOR MERCY AS GRETEL LOOKED ON IN SHOCKED, SICKLY HORROR..."

"THEN, THE OLD WITCH ASKED GRETEL TO SEE IF THE OVEN WAS HOT ENOUGH..."
RUSTLE YER BONES, YA LAZY GOOD-FER-NOTHIN'! TELL ME IF THE OVEN'S READY!
HOW CAN I TELL?
IT'S EASY... ALL YOU DO IS LOOK INSIDE... LIKE THIS...
"IT WAS THE CHANCE GRETEL HAD BEEN WAITING FOR... WITHOUT WARNING, SHE LEAPED..."
AIEEEEE!
AGGHHHHHH!
YOU SIT PATIENTLY, WAITING FOR YOUR FATHER TO FINISH THE STORY...
C'MON, DAD... TELL ME! WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
I CAN'T! IT'S TOO AWFUL! IT'S MAKING ME ILL!
GOLLY, DAD... YOU OUGHTTA TAKE UP READING COMICS FOR A WHILE... THOSE FAIRY TALES ARE REALLY GRUESOME!
THE END

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YOUR NAME IS FRANKENSTEIN!

THE NIGHT IS BLACK AND STILL... YOU'VE BEEN DIGGING FOR ENDLESS DAYS AND MONTHS AND YEARS... AND AT LAST YOU'VE REACHED THE SURFACE! THE SURFACE!! WHERE MEN WALK, AND BREATHE, AND SEE THE WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE! AT LAST YOU'RE FREE TO JOIN THE WORLD OF LIVING MEN!
A TALE OF MADDENING MENACE!
Stan Lee & Joe Maneely

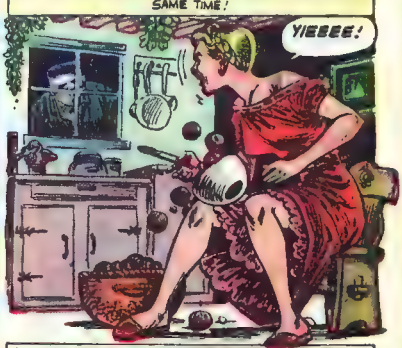
YOU SHUFFLE SLOWLY THRU THE SWAMP... YOUR LIMBS ARE STILL STIFF.. STILL NUMB WITH YEARS OF CONFINEMENT!

YOU REACH FOR THE BUSHES AND VINES WHICH ARE IN YOUR WAY AND YOU DESTROY THEM IN YOUR HUGE, SUPER-HUMAN, MONSTROUS HANDS!

FINALLY YOU SEE A LIGHT UP AHEAD! IT'S A CABIN! THERE'S SOMEONE ALIVE INSIDE!

YOU TROD HEAVILY TO A WINDOW AND PEER INSIDE...FOR YOUR FIRST GLIMPSE OF A HUMAN BEING IN A CENTURY!

AND THEN YOU SEE HER...BUT SHE SEES YOU AT THE SAME TIME!

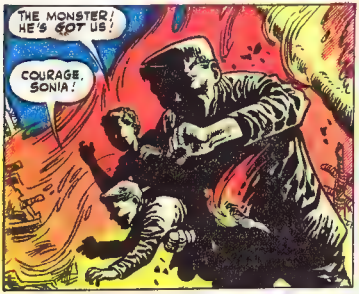


THE HARSH, SHRILL CRY OF THE GIRL PIERCES YOUR HYPERSENSITIVE EARDRUMS! YOU TRY TO SIGNAL HER TO STOP...YOU POUND ON THE WINDOWS..AND THEY CRUMBLE LIKE TISSUE PAPER!

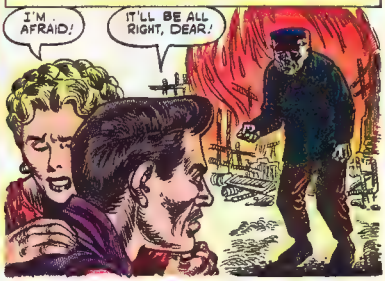
YOU START TO CRAWL THRU THE WINDOW! YOU'VE GOT TO QUIET THE GIRL... SOOTHE HER FEARS! YOU'VE GOT TO EXPLAIN THAT YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO HARM HER...THAT YOU'RE LONELY... THAT YOU WANT FRIENDSHIP... UNDERSTANDING...

YOU COME TOWARD HER SLOWLY, TRYING NOT TO FRIGHTEN HER! YOUR LONG-DEAD VOCAL CORDS ARE CAPABLE OF ONLY GUTTURAL, GURGLING SOUNDS ..
URKKK MMGG...
THEN THE DOOR FLIES OPEN! THE GIRL'S HUSBAND STARES AT YOU WITH HORRIFIED EYES!
IT'S THE MONSTER! THE FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER!
HIS HAND REACHES UP TO THE WALL, GRABBING A FLAMING TORCH...
DON'T WORRY, SONJA! THIS WILL STOP HIM!
BEFORE YOU KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED, A FIERY, FLAMING MASS IS THRUST IN YOUR EYES... SCORCHING YOUR SKIN...CAUSING YOU TO CRY OUT IN UNBEARABLE AGONY!
AARGG!
YOU THRUST OUT ONE HUGE ARM, HURLING THE TORCH AND THE MAN FROM YOU WITH CYCLONIC FURY...
GRRUGH!!
THUD
YOU STAND IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM, SWAYING FROM SIDE TO SIDE IN PAIN, AS THE FLAMES FROM THE TORCH CATCH ONTO THE SHABBY CURTAINS AND RACE UP TO THE ROOF!
RUDOLF! MY DARLING! WHAT HAS HE DONE TO YOU?
HIGHER AND HIGHER LICK THE FLAMES...UNTIL THE ENTIRE ROOM IS A FIERY INFERNO! THE MAN STARTS TO RISE TO HIS FEET, STILL WEAK FROM THE TREMENDOUS IMPACT OF YOUR BLOW!!
RUDOLF! WE'LL BE BURNED ALIVE! GET UP...GET UP!!
I...I CAN'T!
5

THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE! YOU PICK BOTH OF THEM UP IN ONE POWERFUL ARM...AND RUSH OUT OF THE CABIN WITH THEM WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME...



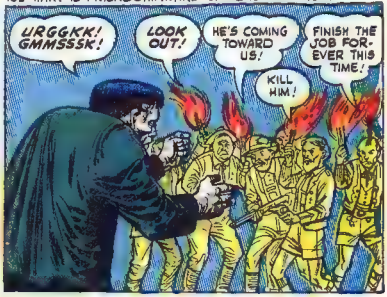
SAFELY OUTSIDE, YOU GENTLY PUT THEM DOWN! NOW THEY'LL BE GRATEFUL! NOW THEY'LL THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE! SURELY *NOW* THEY'LL BE KIND AND FRIENDLY TO YOU...



BUT THEN YOU SPIN AROUND! THERE ARE VOICES BEHIND YOU! MANY VOICES! ANGRY VOICES! DOOM-FILLED VOICES...

YOU WERE RIGHT, ANTON! IT IS THE MONSTER...ALIVE AGAIN!
AND HE'S ATTACKING RUDOLF AND SONIA!
WE'RE JUST IN TIME! IT'S LUCKY WE SAW THE FLAMES!

YOU COME TOWARD THEM WITH ARMS OUTSTRETCHED... MUTTERING PEACEFUL SOUNDS! THEY'VE *GOT* TO UNDERSTAND! THEY'VE GOT TO KNOW YOU MEAN NO HARM! ALL YOU WANT IS FRIENDSHIP...AND UNDERSTANDING...

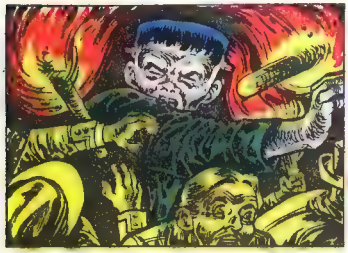


A HUGE ROCK HITS YOU ON THE SKULL...SPLITTING YOUR ACHING SKIN!

A BULLET LODGES IN YOUR CHEST AND THEN ANOTHER...AND ANOTHER... EACH WITH THE FORCE OF A THOUSAND PISTONS!

AND THEN THE TORCHES! THE FLAMING, BURNING, PAIN-FILLED TORCHES! THE AGON-IZING, UNBEARABLE, FIERY TORCHES!

THE PAIN MAKES YOU LOSE CONTROL OF YOUR SENSES! YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT IT... GOT TO MAKE IT STOP! YOU LASH OUT IN BLIND FURY, SNAPPING THE TORCHES LIKE MATCH STICKS!



THE CRYING, SHOUTING, JEERING HUMANS GO DOWN LIKE TEN-PINS BEFORE THE POWER OF YOUR MIGHTY THRUSTS! THEY FALL ABOUT YOU LIKE LITTLE INSECTS... BEATEN, CRUSHED!

BUT THE TERRIBLE ORDEAL HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL OF YOUR BLOOD AND STRENGTH! EVEN *YOU* ARE NOT IMMORTAL!

YOU TURN BACK TOWARD THE SWAMP FROM WHICH YOU CAME AND STAGGER DRUNKENLY THRU THE DENSE FOLIAGE!

YOU CAME TRUSTINGLY INTO THE WORLD OF HUMANS, SEEKING SYMPATHY AND LOVE... AND FOUND INSTEAD ONLY FEAR, AND HATRED... VIOLENCE AND PAIN!

YOUR ACHING HEART AND BRAIN KNOW IT'S BETTER TO DIE THUS, THAN TO LIVE A DESPISED, HUNTED MONSTER!

BUT AS YOU SINK INTO THE QUAGMIRE FROM WHICH YOU WILL NEVER RETURN, YOU HEAR TWO VOICES... THE LAST VOICES YOU'LL EVER HEAR ON EARTH!

THERE HE IS! HE SAVED OUR LIVES... AND WE'VE KILLED HIM! IN OUR IGNORANCE WE DESTROYED WHAT WE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND!
BUT IT'S BETTER FOR HIM TO DIE LIKE THIS! HE WAS NOTHING BUT A FRIGHTFUL MONSTER!

5

NEXT ISSUE: MORE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL, MOST SPINE-TINGLING TALES IN THE WORLD! WHAT TYPE OF STORIES ARE *YOUR* FAVORITES? DROP US A LINE AND LET US KNOW! STAN LEE, EDITOR; MENACE; 270 PARK AVE; NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

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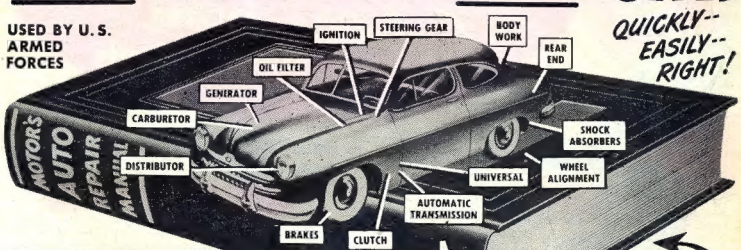

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